

REMARKS

Claim 4 stands allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 2, 3, 6-8, 10-12, 14-17, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shafer, U.S. patent publication US2004/0008,814 in view of either Kim et al., U.S. patent publication US2003/0090115 or Scheinman, U.S. patent 4,819,978. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shafer, U.S. patent publication US2004/0008,814 in view of either Kim et al., U.S. patent publication US2003/0090115 or Scheinman, U.S. patent 4,819,978 further in view of Volker, U.S. patent 4,768,356. Claims 5 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shafer, U.S. patent publication US2004/0008,814 in view of either Kim et al., U.S. patent publication US2003/0090115 or Scheinman, U.S. patent 4,819,978 further in view of Olsen et al., U.S. patent publication US2002/0054,663. Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shafer, U.S. patent publication US2004/0008,814 in view of either Kim et al., U.S. patent publication US2003/0090115 or Scheinman, U.S. patent 4,819,978 further in view of Ohsato et al., U.S. patent publication US2003/0140,713. Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shafer, U.S. patent publication US2004/0008,814 in view of either Kim et al., U.S. patent publication US2003/0090115 or Scheinman, U.S. patent 4,819,978 further in view of Sugimoto et al., U.S. patent 4,621,332.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-15, 17, and 19-20 have been amended to more

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clearly state the invention.

Indicated allowable claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Dependent claims 2-3, and 5-19, as amended, respectively depend from indicated allowable independent claim 4.

Claim 20 has been amended to generally include subject matter of indicated allowable claim 4. Claim 1 had been cancelled.

Thus, each of the remaining pending claims 2-20, as amended, is believed to stand in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of each of the pending claims 2-20, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants have reviewed all the art of record, and respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable over all the art of record, including the references not relied upon by the Examiner for the rejection of the pending claims.

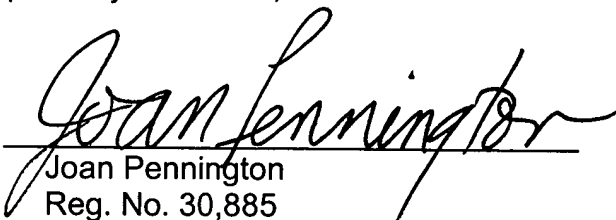
It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance and allowance of each of the pending claims 2-20, as amended, is respectfully requested. Prompt and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner upon considering this amendment should find that a telephone interview would be helpful in expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joan Pennington", written over a horizontal line.

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